



BULLETIN

OF THE

ORIENTAL ESOTERIC CENTER

Vol. VII

Friday, September 8, 1911

No. 30

LOVE YOUR ENEMIES

So we are taught unanimously by all great souls. It matters not to what sect these Great Ones belong, or by what name they are known, they all agree that this love is one of the marks of the disciple.

The world, however, has found this a hard doctrine, too ideal to be lived up to; and men in general are entirely satisfied to love their family, their friends and those in their environment who are congenial to them.

Thus the real point and virtue of the teaching is lost.

When a man loves his wife and family and provides adequately for them in the manner suitable to their station, he is adjudged by all men to be virtuous and honorable. And so he is.

And yet he lacks one thing; he is not master of the situation. For, if disaster should befall—if inharmony should enter his domestic circle—he would need to do more than love his friends. For in such a case it might happen that the very members of the family would league themselves together against him and become (virtually) his enemies. They may criticize his faults, accentuate his failings, disregard his wishes and make his home almost unbearable. They are then no longer his friends but his enemies (in the sense of the text).

Or the problem may be one of mutual misunderstanding; each member of the household "gets upon the nerves" of some other member, and there is a constant state of turmoil where all should be peace and harmony.



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Or the problem may be one of mutual misunderstanding; each member of the household “gets upon the nerves” of some other member, and there is a constant state of turmoil where all should be peace and harmony.

We do not need to multiply instances. The heart knoweth its own bitterness, and these conditions are but too common. Every one can make his own application.

The Law that shall bring prosperity and a happy issue to every thing men do is still hidden from them because they fight and contend with their rivals in a spirit of opposition and there is no love in their heart.

The same may be said of the social world. Ambition, jealousy, pride and love of the personality are prevalent and are even condoned, since they are supposed to be essential to the attainment of social distinction of any kind whatever. On the contrary, such virtues as humility, gentleness and willingness to give up a higher place and be content with a lower one, if necessary, are accounted to be mean and unworthy.

There *is* a spurious humility that *is* ignoble, it is true. But it is equally true that real humility is greater than pride and ambition.

It is also harder to practise.

True greatness is always humble, it is impossible otherwise. For the great man has some slight conception of the vastness, the power and the wonderful beauty of the Universe, as well as of the nobility of Man. This knowledge makes him feel at one and the same time both great and infinitesimally small. Great in promise and potentiality, but small in present power of realization. His fellows may account him wise or illustrious—he knows that in proportion with “the man that shall be” he is insignificant. This knowledge does not dampen his enthusiasm but stimulates him to attempt the impossible. He aspires to love, not only his friends, but his so-called enemies also; for he looks upon all other men as expressions, like himself, of the Great Man, in the image of God, however weakly they may at the moment be expressing that likeness.

“Love your enemies,” first because it is right to do so, for the spiritual nature approves it as a Divine teaching.

“Love your enemies” also because it is the only way to heal inharmony between those who should be friends, and more than friends.

But how shall you proceed? For an open protestation of love on your part would be met with unbelief, or derision, and would perhaps lead to a still more intense hostility.

“See the God in your would-be enemy.” Love the good in him. Search out all his good qualities; rehearse all the kind things he has said to you and to others; remember all his good actions and praise him silently in your heart for them. All men have a good side as well as the one that has aroused your adverse criticism. Love all these good things and remember them within yourself. But forget his negative and displeasing characteristics.

This is a perfect cure, if you can do it. And the length of time

in realization will depend upon the reality of your love and the strength of the currents that you are able to emit. No word should be spoken, and no suggestion of any kind used. If you can silently love the God in your enemy, he will not long remain an enemy.

One of two things will happen. If there is sufficient equality for a basis to be established of future union, each of the two parties to the misunderstanding will gradually change their view of the other, until love at last prevails. But if, on the other hand, the hostility of your would-be enemy is inveterate and obstinate, then the operation of the law will separate him from you. He will drift out of your life and leave you in peace. For hatred and love cannot abide together. And love is the stronger.

The operation of the law is automatic when once you have set it in action. The crux of the situation lies in your power to start the machinery, keep it fed and gently guide its course until the result is brought about.

To do this you must keep your heart warm with love for all Beings and the God who made them. Especially will your love go forth to the "enemy" who must be named "friend;" and although outwardly your behaviour should not be changed, yet there will be an inner meaning to your every action that was not there before; a feeling of warmth and love will inform and permeate all your words and gestures which will react upon the one you love and stir his inner nature.

There is yet another side to the action of the law. It not only acts and stimulates, it also reacts and protects. It is both Number One and Number Two in activity. For so long as you can love the one who injures you, his injury can not harm you. It is not enough to disregard the injury and remain indifferent, there must be a positive outflow of love to lead to success.

We frequently hear it said by some good person who has suffered an injury from another: "I am sure I have no feeling against any one however ill they may have behaved to me; they are perfectly indifferent to me."

And the world approves this attitude and praises their forgiving nature.

But this lack of feeling and indifference is not *Love*.

Negation will set no wheels in motion. Those who indulge in it are standing on the brink of the precipice of hatred, and leaning over—priding themselves upon their safety. Nothing less than Love can save you.

Can you love your enemy? You can and do love the real self in every being, however ignorant and weak the personality—however hostile and bitter the expression.

But this is more than human, some one says.

And so is man, we answer.

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THE BULLETIN

This issue of the BULLETIN marks its first appearance as an Esoteric Organ, representative of the Society as a whole.

To this end the space that in the past has been devoted to Book Lists will in future be taken by Reports of the various Branches of the Work, insofar as these are inspiring to the general reader and stimulating to the energies of the workers.

A number of new Departments of great usefulness will be added; there will be a monthly Children's Page, a Parents' Page, Astrological Data for the month, Answers to Questions of General Interest, Letters from our Members at Home and Abroad, occasional Articles from the pen of Eminent Personages who are interested in matters esoteric, and many uplifting and inspiring words from all sources in the form of quotations.

This increase in editorial work and the consequent elimination of the Book Lists will entail much additional expense, and it has been decided to make the rate of subscription one dollar a year, 50 cents a half-year, and 25 cents for three months, beginning October 1st of this year. All subscriptions entered before this date will be subject to the former rate for one year. The issue will be weekly as usual and in every other way the same as formerly.

As some inquiries have reached this office from BULLETIN subscribers in regard to the non-receipt of BULLETIN during the past five weeks, we refer all subscribers to Page 1 of BULLETIN for July 28th. There it was stated that that number would be the last issue of BULLETIN for five weeks—the usual summer vacation—and that the next issue would be that of September 8th, the present one.

HOW TO APPLY FOR MEMBERSHIP

An application for admission, either as Active or Corresponding Member, must be addressed to the President, stating in full the name, profession, nationality, etc., of the applicant, the services he has rendered to humanity, and his reasons for wishing to join the Society. The regular dues are:

Active Members, \$1.00 a month. When non-resident or not within reach of a Branch, \$1.00 a month from October 1st to June 1st (\$9.00).

Corresponding Members: \$1.00 annually, in advance. (\$1.50 for residents of countries requiring foreign postage.)

Address THE SECRETARY, O. E. S.

ASTROLOGICAL DATA FOR SEPTEMBER

BRIEF READING

New Moon and Sun crossing the line in same day in same sign, is very important and not fortunate for any new enterprise.

It will cause great expenditures, as Moon is square to Mars and Jupiter will excite those in authority, also reduce the revenue.

Places of amusement will suffer, also railroads.

Jupiter in evil aspect will call many home in high circles.

This will be quite an evil period for children.

BEN AZIEL.

"The planets incline but do not compel." "The wise man rules his stars; the fool obeys them."

Knowledge of himself being man's one safeguard, it is only by understanding the forces operating around him that he can so arrange his every day conduct as to make it harmonize with the experiences his soul must gather in order to carry it through its present state of consciousness.

When a bad direction occurs in the horoscope it is only to the unawakened soul that the influence works for evil. The developed individuality sees in it merely the result of forces set in motion in some past existence, realizing his chance to "make good" for the "shirking" or perhaps careless performance of duties in the past. He finds in himself the power to turn the effects of evil stars into present opportunities, for malefic planets have their positive and negative qualities, their good and bad sides.

True astrology must teach that the stars are not to blame for unfortunate conditions; that such states only result when the sleeping soul blindly accepts their negative influence. It points to the light of truth and charity, and by a just perception of the laws of cause and effect, the eternal balance and order of all things, is the student of the esoteric side of astrology enabled to realize that in his own conduct lies his present peace and future happiness.

In other words, to quote from a well known writer on the subject, "Character is Destiny."

The Oriental Esoteric Library. The attention of our readers is called to the Library, which is affiliated with the Society, and which both sells and loans selected books on esotericism, occultism and many other helpful and practical subjects, including health, business, problems of the home, social and economic questions, recreation, science and philosophy, masonry, classics for the young, etc. The Library publishes fifteen distinct book lists, any or all of which can be had for the asking.

The *O. E. Library Critic*, issued every other week, contains the book lists and reviews formerly printed in the *BULLETIN*, as well as other matters of interest to our members and friends. Subscription, twenty-five cents a year. Address *The Librarian, O. E. L.*

MEDITATION

All students of Esoterism recognize the invaluable aid of meditation to spiritual development. Meditation, when pursued systematically, supplies to the spiritual man the same nourishment that food and drink do to the physical. That spiritual ideas—which the words are but the clothing—may be most perfectly assimilated, and become a part of one's spiritual being, it is necessary that meditation be regular, not spasmodic. Better five minutes of earnest meditation at a fixed time each day than an hour now and then at irregular intervals.

In order to aid students who recognize the vital importance of this method of mental and spiritual discipline in their own training, there will hereafter appear each week in the BULLETIN a collection of seven quotations—one for each day—suitable for the week following the date of the issue of the BULLETIN. With Sunday, September 10, begins the thirty-seventh week of the year. The following quotations on the subject of Discipleship—a subject to the student of Esoterism of vital importance—for that week are taken from the book on NOONTIDE MEDITATIONS, compiled by Miss A. E. Marsland, President of the Oriental Esoteric Society.

These quotations for each day of the coming week we send out with loving thoughts to all those who may care to join us in a few moments of silent meditation at noontide each day:

THIRTY-SEVENTH WEEK

1. Until a man has become in heart and spirit a disciple, he has no existence for those who are teachers of disciples.
2. One becomes in heart and spirit a disciple by one method only; the surrender of the personality.
3. The true disciple remains ever humble and unobtrusive; he does not seek powers or desire them.
4. The disciple is bidden never to give pain to another.
5. Before the tongue can speak in the presence of the Master it must have lost the power to wound.
6. Woe unto him who would penetrate the meaning of sacred things before his head has grown white with duty, and the seven noded staff is necessary to support his steps.
7. The life of the disciple is marked by a living Faith in the invisible, and a knowledge of the truth from experience.

BY AGNES E. MARSLAND

President of The Oriental Esoteric Center and The Oriental Esoteric Society

WHAT ESOTERISM IS

Paper, 35 cents; cloth, 50 cents.

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THE WAY

Daintily bound in paper, 10 cents.

PARENTS' PAGE

To those who appreciate the significance of the present spiritual movement—manifesting as it is, in one form or another throughout the world—the question of the responsibility of parenthood is one of the deepest moment. Indeed, of all questions agitating the minds of thoughtful and spiritually aspiring men and women today that of the wise upbringing of those who will be the men and women of tomorrow is perhaps of most far-reaching importance. On every hand the recognition by intelligent people of the necessity of giving due weight to this problem is evident; in the greater amount of time and consideration devoted in the schools to child-study and to pedagogy; in reformatory, rather than punitive, measures taken with so-called wayward children, in the passage and enforcement of laws regulating child labor; and, perhaps most important of all, in the awakening interest in the science of Eugenics.

Most of all, however, to those who recognize that the soul—the Ego—is not created afresh with each new-born body is the question of the responsibility—and the privilege—of parenthood an important one. Particularly is this true in this transitional, and critical, age when some great souls are coming into incarnation. These old souls, born into physical bodies, having sensitive, "high-strung" nervous organization, require especially wise and judicious training, in order that their latent possibilities may be realized.

Because we believe that many of our readers recognize this vital fact, we are starting a PARENTS' PAGE, to appear once a month, on which will be discussed questions of moment to parents and also to teachers and all others interested in the training and upbringing of children. Both questions and suggestions will be welcomed by this Department, and if of sufficiently general interest, and not of a personal or private nature, will be published.

Address PARENTS' PAGE,

BULLETIN OF THE ORIENTAL ESOTERIC SOCIETY.

SYMBOL OF THE SOCIETY



The pin of the Society may be ordered from the Secretary, O. E. S., at the following cost: :

Solid Gold, with safety catch.....	\$3.50
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In addition to the pins, we have the symbol of the Society made in pendant form. This we recommend as being particularly attractive. Worn attached to a chain about the neck, it is suitable for women; worn as a watch charm, equally suitable for men.

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"SHOCK AND STRAIN AND RUIN"

As the insect from the rock
 Takes the color of its wing;
 As the boulder from the shock
 Of the ocean's rhythmic swing
 Makes itself a perfect form,
 Learns a calmer front to raise;
 As the shell, enameled warm
 With the prism's mystic rays,
 Praises wind and wave that make
 All its chambers fair and strong;
 As the mighty poets take
 Grief and pain to build their song;
 Even so for every soul,
 Whatsoe'er its lot may be—
 Building as the heavens roll
 Something large and strong and free—
 Things that hurt and things that mar
 Shape the man for perfect praise;
 Shock and strain and ruin are
 Friendlier than the smiling days.

—Unknown.